

## Testimony for the Senate Transportation Committee on SB169 on February 12, 2013

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, the National Motorists Association supports this bill to define rules for automated vehicles to be safely test driven in Michigan.

Michigan has an enormous brain trust of automotive technology that should take part in the development and testing of these vehicles.

We have two comments or suggestions.

First, in the Title paragraph, the bill adds civil liability for **Manufacturers**. We believe it should also add civil liability to **Upfitters** as they are defined in the bill.

Second, in section 664 (3) the Operator is defined as:

**THE PERSON WHO CAUSES THE TECHNOLOGY TO ENGAGE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THAT PERSON IS PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN THAT VEHICLE WHILE IT IS OPERATING ON AUTOMATIC MODE.**

We believe this definition should also always define the person sitting in the drivers seat as an **OPERATOR**, regardless of whether they were the specific person who caused the technology to engage. If someone other than the person in the driver's seat engages the technology, it is still the responsibility of the person in the driver's seat to take over to prevent a crash if something goes wrong. The person in the driver's seat is always an **OPERATOR** when the vehicle is in motion.

I would be happy to answer any questions about our comments.

Respectfully submitted,



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